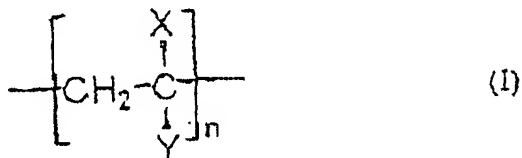


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A novel compound, characterized in that it comprises a hemoprotein associated with a sequenced block copolymer comprising a hydrophilic segment, that is an oligosaccharide or a polysaccharide, linked to at least one hydrophobic segment of formula



in which:

- X represents H or an alkyl, CN or CONHR radical,
- Y represents a COOR', CONHR'' or C₆H₅ radical,

with R, R' and R'' representing, independently of one another, a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl group, a linear or branched C₁ to C₂₀ alkoxy group, an amino acid radical, a mono- or polyhydroxylated acid radical or a C₅ to C₁₂ aryl or heteroaryl radical, and the forms associated with a gas.

2. (Original) The novel compound as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the hemoprotein is a normal hemoprotein, such as cytochromes or myoglobins, or a modified hemoprotein, in particular a natural or modified hemoglobin, that is for example bridged, polymerized, mutated or comprises more or less long peptide chains, or else a hemoprotein analogue in which the iron is substituted with another metal, for example with cobalt, magnesium, copper or zinc.

3. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the hemoprotein is a normal or modified hemoglobin.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, characterized in that, in formula (I), X represents a CN radical.

5. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 4, in which the hydrophobic segment is a poly(alkyl cyanoacrylate).

6. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, characterized in that the hydrophilic segment that is saccharide in nature is a natural or synthetic oligosaccharide or polysaccharide, that may or may not be modified, in particular dextran, where appropriate sulfated, or heparin.

7. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, characterized in that X represents H and Y a phenyl or ester radical.

8. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, characterized in that it is provided in the form of particles of 1 nm to 1 mm.

9. (Original) The compound as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that it is provided in the form of nanoparticles.

10. (Original) The use of the compound as claimed in claim 9, as a human or animal blood substitute.

11. (Original) The use of the compound as claimed in claim 10, as an adjuvant for antitumor compositions or other antitumor means, for example as a radiosensitizing agent.

12. (Currently Amended) The use of the compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3 and 6 to 8~~, as agent for depolluting gases, such as carbon monoxide or nitric oxide.

13. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, characterized in that it contains a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6 or 9~~, in the form of nanoparticles in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.